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PART IV.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING

RED SEA LIGHTS.

160

1902.

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Further Correspondence respecting Red Sea Lights: 1902.

PART IV.

No. 1.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 5. Commercial.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April* 16, 1902.

REPORT by telegraph what stage has been reached in the construction of the new lights in the Red Sea.

No. 2.

*Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.**—(*Received April* 17.)

(No. 16. Commercial.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, April* 17, 1902.

RED SEA lights. Your telegram of yesterday.

Lighthouse Administration informs me that until the hot weather sets in the work will be actively pushed on. It is hoped that all except the Mokha light will be nearly complete by that time.

No. 3.

The Earl of Cromer to the Marquess of Lansdowne.†—(*Received May* 5.)

(No. 64.)
My Lord, *Cairo, April* 25, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a Memorandum, prepared at my request, by Viscount Errington, Attaché at His Majesty's Agency in Egypt, being the result of some observations made by him on the occasion of a short cruise undertaken by him on the invitation of Commander Gaunt, R.N., and with my consent, respecting the lighthouses and other points of interest connected with the Red Sea.

Commander Gaunt, of His Majesty's ship "Scout," was at that time patrolling

* Copy to Board of Trade and India Office, April 30, 1902.
† Copy to Board of Trade, May 15, 1902.

the southern waters of the Red Sea with a view to checking the Slave Trade in those parts. He will, without doubt, report to the Admiral on the subject of his recent cruise.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CROMER.

Inclosure in No. 3.

Memorandum by Viscount Errington respecting the Red Sea.

Red Sea Lights.

THE northern waters of the Red Sea are generally considered as offering little difficulty to navigation, the lighthouses at points of danger being very efficiently controlled by the Egyptian Lighthouse Administration.

The Ottoman Government is now taking the long-required measures for rendering the southern portion of the Red Sea more practicable to navigation by building light-houses at—

(*a.*) Jebel Teir.
(*b.*) Abou Ail, a prominent rock lying just north of Jebel Zukar.
(*c.*) Central Peak Island, in the Zobeir group.
(*d.*) Mokha.

The works are being carried out by a French Company of contractors, whose sole means of furnishing these various points with supplies, stores, and materials appear to be by the constant employment of their steam-ship "l'Afrique"; this fact, combined with the various local difficulties to be contended with, renders progress slow.

At *Jebel Teir*, fully nine months will be required to complete the light, as the foundations have not as yet been begun.

Abou Ail, one of the most necessary of all the proposed lights, and, perhaps, the most difficult to build, will require from six to nine months to complete.

Central Peak Island, of the Zobeir group: Here the works are more advanced than at any of the other points. All the material necessary for the light has been landed, and unless work is hindered by the strong winds which at times prevail, its completion should not require more than two or three months.

Mokha will be the last lighthouse to be built, being less urgently required for navigation than the others under construction. Much masonry work will be necessary in building the Mokha light; consequently, it is estimated that it will not be in working order for fully a year.

When these various lighthouses are finished the navigation of the southern waters of the Red Sea will be greatly facilitated.

The regular supply of stores and fresh water to the lighthouse keepers should be effectually ensured.

Sponge and Pearl Fisheries

are not carried on as extensively as might be expected; both these industries are capable of being greatly developed.

Slavery.

In the northern waters of the Red Sea the traffic in slaves may be said to be practically non-existent.

In the south, slaves are occasionally run from the neighbourhood of Rahieta on the Erythræan coast to some of the little frequented parts of the Arabian coast between Hodeida and Mokha.

The few traders that still exist endeavour to land their slaves in Arabia in time for the Bairam sales at Mecca, when the best prices can be obtained.

Arms Traffic.

This practically does not exist north of Perim, but to the south of that port, and more especially in the Gulf of Aden, the traffic in arms is said to be very active at present.

Coaling-stations.

The most important coaling-stations in the Red Sea are under British control.

The attempts made by the French Government to establish a coaling depôt on the Arabian coast opposite Perim have been frustrated by the Turks.

The rumoured establishment of a Red Sea coaling-station by the German Government has amounted, according to all accounts, to their depositing a small quantity of coal on one of the islands in the Farsan group, leaving a notice on the island to the effect that the coal is the property of the German Government.

Navigation in those parts is dangerous owing to the coral reefs, and the waters have not as yet been thoroughly surveyed, so that the establishment of a coaling-station on a large scale at this point seems improbable.

Cairo, April 24, 1902.

No. 4.

Question asked in the House of Commons, May 5, 1902.

Sir James Fergusson,—To ask the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the four additional lighthouses contemplated at the southern end of the Red Sea are in course of erection; and, if so, by what Power;

When it is expected that they will be completed; whether their expenses will be defrayed by the 30,000*l.* ceded for this purpose by Egypt from her light dues;

And whether anything has been settled as to the erection of a lighthouse at the eastern end of the Gulf of Aden.

Answer.

In May 1899 the Ottoman Government entered into an agreement with the "Administration des Phares" for the erection of the four lighthouses referred to at Mokha, Abou Ail, Zebair, and Abou Tir. Under the Agreement the four lighthouses were to be completed within five years from the beginning of January 1900.

In December last our Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople informed Lord Lansdowne that the construction of the lighthouse at Zobehr was proceeding satisfactorily, and that in a week's time material would be discharged at Abou Ail for lighthouse to be erected there. Sir N. O'Conor informed the Foreign Office on the 17th instant that the Lighthouse Administration had informed him that the work would be actively pushed on until the hot weather set in, by which time it was hoped that all except the Mokha light would be nearly complete.

No part of the Egyptian surplus from light dues will be used for these lights.

The question of the erection of a lighthouse at the east end of the Gulf of Aden is still the subject of consideration.

No. 5.

Question asked in the House of Commons, June 9, 1902.

Mr. Weir,—To ask the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he will state whether the work of constructing a lighthouse on Jibel (Mount) Teir, Red Sea, has been commenced; and, if so, can he say when the work is expected to be finished?

Answer.

I informed the House on the 5th ultimo that the work of construction of this and the other lights was to be actively pushed on till the hot weather set in, by which time it was hoped that all except the Mokha light would be nearly complete.

From information, however, which has since reached the Foreign Office, we have learnt that the foundations of the lighthouse on Jibel Teir have not as yet been begun, and that it will not be finished for fully nine months.

No. 6.

*Lloyd's to Foreign Office.**—(*Received June* 13.)

Sir,

Lloyd's, June 12, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I have noticed in the newspapers an answer which was given in the House of Commons to a question asked by Mr. Weir with regard to the new lighthouses which are being constructed in the Red Sea. In this answer the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs is reported to have said that the work of construction in connection with these lighthouses was to be actively pushed on till the hot weather set in, but that the foundations of the lighthouse at Jibel Teir have not as yet been begun.

According to information which has been received in this office from a report from the Norddeutscher Lloyd Steam-ship Company, of Bremen, under date of the 28th May, we are inclined to believe that the following is the exact state of affairs with regard to these new lighthouses in the southern portion of the Red Sea:—

At Jibel Teir the erection of the tower has been commenced. At Centre Peak Island and Abou Ail the towers are nearly finished. Nothing, however, could be seen of Mokha.

I am, &c.
(Signed) H. M. HOZIER, *Secretary.*

No. 7.

The Earl of Cromer to the Marquess of Lansdowne.†—(*Received June* 16.)

(No. 37. Commercial.)

My Lord,

Cairo, June 4, 1902.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 64 of the 25th April, in which mention is made of the lighthouses in the Red Sea, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that Rear-Admiral Blomfield, Controller-General of the Egyptian Ports and Lighthouse Administration, has been furnished with further details respecting the progress made in the construction of these lights by M. Bernard, the representative of the French Contracting Company.

M. Bernard, who is at present at Suez, states that the lighthouses at Abou Ail and at Central Peak Island are complete and ready for lighting, and further that the Jibel Teir light will be finished in six weeks. The Mokha lighthouse he reports to be progressing in a favourable manner.

M. Bernard is, however, unable to give any idea as to the probable date at which any of the lighthouses will be lighted for navigation purposes.

I am of opinion that the rapid progress in the construction of these lighthouses, as reported by M. Bernard, is open to doubt; but it is very probable that the visit of His Majesty's ship "Scout" to those parts had the effect of accelerating the works.

The estimates of time required for the construction of the lights at the various points, as furnished by the employés on the spot to His Majesty's ship "Scout," probably allowed a considerable margin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CROMER.

* Copy to Cairo, No. 32, Commercial, June 16, 1902.
† Copy to Board of Trade, June 19, 1902.

No. 8.

Lloyd's to Foreign Office.— (*Received June* 17.)

Sir,

Lloyd's, June 16, 1902.

WITH further reference to the communication which I had the honour of addressing to you on the 12th June, upon the subject of the construction of additional lighthouses in the southern portion of the Red Sea, I am now instructed to beg that you will be so good as to inform the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs that a report has been received from the Commander of the steamer "Hamburg," belonging to the Hamburg-Amerika Linie, dated Aden, the 10th May, in which it is stated that on passing Jibel Teir he found building operations just commenced, while on Centre Peak Island and on Abou Ail the lighthouses were nearly complete. The Commander could make out nothing at Mokha Shoal as he passed that place in the night.

I am, &c.
(Signed) H. M. HOZIER, *Secretary.*

No. 9.

Lloyd's to Foreign Office.—(*Received August* 20.)

Sir,

Lloyd's, August 20, 1902.

WITH reference to previous correspondence upon the subject of the lighting of the Red Sea, I am instructed to beg that you will be so good as to inform the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs that a communication has been received from the Hamburg-Amerika Steam-ship Company, of Hamburg, in which it is stated that the commander of one of their boats who lately passed in proximity to the lighthouses building in the Red Sea, reports that the lighthouses on Jibel Teir, Centre Peak Island, and Abou Ail seemed, according to outward appearance, to be completed, as the staging had been taken off.

I am, &c.
(For the Secretary),
(Signed) EDW. PUTTOCK.

No. 10.

*Lloyd's to Foreign Office.**—(*Received October* 29.)

Sir,

Lloyd's, October 28, 1902.

I AM instructed to forward you herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, an extract from a communication which has to-day been received by the Committee of Lloyd's with regard to the progress of lighthouse works in the Red Sea.

I am, &c.
(Signed) H. M. HOZIER, *Secretary.*

Inclosure in No. 10.

Report by Captain Cafferata respecting Red Sea Lighthouses.

Mokha.—On passing Mokha on the 4th October I observed the new lighthouse, which appears to be an iron "tripod" lighthouse, something similar in construction to those on the Egyptian coast at Damietta, Cape Brulos, and Rosetta. At present the lighthouse is painted red, but this may be only temporary. No light could be seen from it after dark. Judging from the height of the tower, I should say that the light, when shown, ought to be visible about 18 miles.

Abou Ail.—Passing close to these islands at midnight on same date, the lighthouse could be distinctly seen on Quoin Island, apparently finished, but no light was shown from it.

* Copy to Cairo, No. 61, Commercial, and to Constantinople, No. 133, Commercial, October 30, 1902.

Centre Peak.—Next day, the 5th October, passed Centre Peak Island, on the summit of which there is an iron lighthouse, painted white, with a fine large square building surrounding its base, also painted white. I could see the glasses and reflectors in position, showing that this lighthouse is about ready for use.

Jibel Teir.—Same day passed Jibel Teir. The lighthouse on this island is on the western side, and is similar in construction to that at Centre Peak. This lighthouse did not seem to be so far advanced as the others.

I do not know yet what the character of any of these lights is going to be, nor the probable date of exhibition.

(Signed) O. E. CAFFERATA, *Master.*

Steam-ship "Saint Kilda," Mediterranean,
October 18, 1902.

No. 11.

Board of Trade to Foreign Office.—(*Received November* 8.)

Sir, *Board of Trade, November* 7, 1902.

WITH reference to previous correspondence upon the subject of the lighthouses in course of construction in the Red Sea, I am directed by the Board of Trade to transmit herewith, for the information of the Marquess of Lansdowne, copy of an extract from a communication which has been received through the Committee of Lloyd's relating to the progress of the lighthouse works in question.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. W. PELHAM.

Inclosure in No. 11.

Report by Captain Cafferata respecting Red Sea Lighthouses.

[See Inclosure in No. 10.]

No. 12.

Liverpool Underwriters' Association to Foreign Office.—(*Received November* 13.)

Sir, *Exchange Buildings, Liverpool, November* 11, 1902.

THE Committee for managing the affairs of this Association have seen with much satisfaction a paragraph in the press indicating that the four new lights in the southern portion of the Red Sea have at last been completed; but before placing this report on the Minutes of the Association, I am to say that my Committee will be most grateful if you will be so good as to state whether your Department can vouch for its correctness.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. A. BELLEY, *Secretary.*

No. 13.

Foreign Office to Liverpool Underwriters' Association.

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 15, 1902.

WITH reference to your letter of the 11th instant, relating to the new lights in the southern part of the Red Sea, I am directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to inform you that his Lordship understands that the lighthouses are almost, if not quite, finished; and that His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople was recently instructed to inquire when they would be put in use.

The result of this inquiry will be communicated to you.

I am, &c.
(Signed) F. A. CAMPBELL.

No. 14.

Liverpool Underwriters' Association to Foreign Office.—(*Received November* 20.)

Sir, *Exchange Buildings, Liverpool, November* 19, 1902.

I AM instructed by my Committee to acknowledge, with best thanks, your letter of the 15th instant, from which they note that the result of the inquiry now being made by His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, as to when the above-mentioned lights will be put into use, will be communicated to this Association in due course.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. A. BELLEY, *Secretary.*

No. 15.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received November* 24.)

(No. 186. Commercial.) *Constantinople, November* 18, 1902.

My Lord,

IN reply to your Lordship's despatch No. 133, Commercial, of the 30th ultimo, requesting me to inquire when the new lighthouses in the Red Sea will be ready for use, I have the honour to report that I have learnt privately from the Ministry of Marine that a Commission composed of representatives of the Admiralty and the Lighthouse Administration is about to start for the Red Sea to take delivery of the new constructions, and that as soon as this formality is accomplished the lighthouses will commence working.

I shall continue to make inquiries, and shall have the honour to report to your Lordship as soon as I can ascertain the date when the lights are to be put into operation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 16.

*Foreign Office to Board of Trade.**

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 28, 1902.

WITH reference to your letter of the 7th instant respecting the new lighthouses in the Red Sea, I have to inform you that His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople

* Also to India Office, Lord Cromer (No. 64, Commercial), Lloyd's, and Liverpool Underwriters' Association, *mutatis mutandis.*

has learnt privately from the Ministry of Marine that a Commission composed of representatives of the Admiralty and the Lighthouse Administration is about to start for the Red Sea to take delivery of the new lighthouses, which, as soon as this formality is accomplished, will commence working.

Sir N. O'Conor adds that he will continue to make inquiries and will report as soon as he is able to ascertain the date when the new lights are to be put into use.

I am, &c.
(Signed) F. A. CAMPBELL.

No. 17.

Lloyd's to Foreign Office.—(*Received November* 29.)

Sir, *Lloyd's, November* 27, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to forward you herewith copy of a communication received in this office to-day from the Deutsche Dampfschifffahrts-Gesellschaft "Hansa" with regard to new lighthouses at Mokka, Abou Ail, and Central Peak, in case the same may be of interest to the Foreign Office.

I am, &c.
(Signed) H. M. HOZIER, *Secretary.*

Inclosure in No. 17.

Deutsche Dampfschifffahrts-Gesellschaft "Hansa" to Lloyd's.

Dear Sir, *Bremen, November* 25, 1902.

WE have the honour to inform you that one of our captains now reports having seen the fires of the new lighthouses at Mokha, Abou Ail, and Central Peak at a distance of 25 sea miles. He adds that the Mokha light was considerably stronger than the others. He could not see whether the light at Jibel Teir is burning yet as he passed this in the daytime.

Yours truly,
Deutsche Dampfschifffahrts-Gesellschaft "Hansa."

No. 18.

Lloyd's to Foreign Office.—(*Received December* 1.)

Sir, *Lloyd's, November* 29, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th November with regard to new lighthouses in the Red Sea, and to beg that you will be so good as to express to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs the best thanks of the Committee of Lloyd's for the information with which his Lordship has been good enough to allow them to be favoured in connection with this question.

I am, &c.
(For the Secretary),
(Signed) JOHN B. WATSON.

No. 19.

Liverpool Underwriters' Association to Foreign Office.—(*Received December* 2.)

Sir, *Exchange Buildings, Liverpool, December* 1, 1902.

I AM instructed by my Committee to acknowledge, with best thanks, your communication of the 28th ultimo, and to add that any further information on this subject will be gratefully received by my Committee.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. A. BELLEY, *Secretary.*

No. 20.

Board of Trade to Foreign Office.—(*Received December* 5.)

Sir, *Board of Trade, December* 4, 1902.

WITH reference to your letter of the 28th ultimo, and previous correspondence upon the subject of the lighthouses in course of construction in the Red Sea, I am directed by the Board of Trade to transmit herewith, for the information of the Marquess of Lansdowne, copy a letter addressed to the Committee of Lloyd's, which has been received through that body, relating to the new lighthouses at Mokha, Abou Ail, and Central Peak.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. W. P. BLOMEFIELD.

Inclosure in No. 20.

Deutsche Dampfschifffahrts-Gesellschaft "Hansa" to Lloyd's.

[See Inclosure in No. 17.]

No. 21.

*Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.**—(*Received December* 22.)

(No. 207. Commercial.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 10, 1902.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 186 of the 18th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a copy of a *note verbale* received from the Sublime Porte respecting lighthouses in the Red Sea.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 21.

Note verbale.

EN réponse au takrir que l'Ambassade de Sa Majesté Britannique a bien voulu lui adresser en date du 29 Octobre dernier (v.s.), le Ministère des Affaires Étrangères a l'honneur de l'informer, sur une communication du Département Impérial de la Marine, que les travaux de construction des phares mentionnés dans le takrir précité, étant achevés, un fonctionnaire a été envoyé sur les lieux pour faire, conformément aux clauses de la Convention, la seconde expertise et qu'il sera avisé au nécessaire aussitôt qu'il aura, à son retour, remis son rapport au sujet des dits phares.

Sublime Porte, le 9 Décembre, 1902.

No. 22.

Lloyd's to Foreign Office.—(*Received December* 27.)

Sir, *Lloyd's, December* 24, 1902.

I BEG to forward you herewith the substance of a communication which has been received from Lloyd's agents at Perim with regard to the lighting of the Red Sea, in case the same may be of interest to the Foreign Office.

I am, &c.
(Signed) H. M. HOZIER, *Secretary.*

---

* Copy to Cairo, Board of Trade, India Office, Lloyd's, and Liverpool Underwriters' Association, December 24, 1902.

Inclosure in No. 22.

Communication from Lloyd's Agents at Perim respecting Red Sea Lighthouses.

A CORRESPONDENT, writing from Perim under date of the 7th December, states that the Administrator-General of the Ottoman Empire had left on a tour of inspection of the new lighthouses. The Administrator believed that it would be another two months before the lighthouses would be lighted for service, but that notices to all Governments would be circulated in about six weeks' time.

The headquarters of the administration of these lights will be at Mokha, in charge of Mr. J. Caffiero.

The Perim Coal Company has accepted the agency of the administration at Perim and Aden, and their steamers will perform the regular lighthouse service.

No. 23.

Lloyd's to Foreign Office.—(*Received December* 30.)

Sir, *Lloyd's, December* 29, 1902.

I HAVE the honour, by direction of the Committee of Lloyd's, to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 24th December, with regard to the lighthouses in the Red Sea, and to beg that you will be so good as to express to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs the best thanks of my Committee for allowing them to be favoured with this communication.

I am, &c.
(Signed) H. M. HOZIER, *Secretary.*